

Rail

Today North Carolina has 3,684 miles of railroad tracks throughout the state. There are two types of trains that operate in the state, passenger trains and freight trains.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation sponsors two passenger trains, the Carolinian and Piedmont. The Carolinian runs between Charlotte and New York City, while the Piedmont train carries passengers from Raleigh to Charlotte and back everyday. Combined, the Carolinian and Piedmont carry more than 200,000 passengers each year.

There are two major freight railroad companies that operate in North Carolina, CSX Transportation and Norfolk Southern Corporation. Also, there are more than 20 smaller freight railroads, known as shortlines.

An inventory of existing and planned rail facilities for the planning area is presented on Sheet 3 of Figure 1. All recommendations for rail were coordinated with the local governments and the Rail Division of NCDOT. Refer to Appendix A for contact information.

Bicycles & Pedestrians

Bicyclists and pedestrians are a growing part of the transportation equation in North Carolina. Many communities are working to improve mobility for both cyclists and pedestrians.

NCDOT's Bicycle Policy, updated in 1991, clarifies responsibilities regarding the provision of bicycle facilities upon and along the 77,000-mile state-maintained highway system. The policy details guidelines for planning, design, construction, maintenance, and operations pertaining to bicycle facilities and accommodations. All bicycle improvements undertaken by the NCDOT are based on this policy.

The 2000 NCDOT Pedestrian Policy Guidelines specifies that NCDOT will participate with localities in the construction of sidewalks as incidental features of highway improvement projects. At the request of a locality, state funds for a sidewalk are made available if matched by the requesting locality, using a sliding scale based on population.

NCDOT's administrative guidelines, adopted in 1994, ensure that greenways and greenway crossings are considered during the transportation planning process. This policy was incorporated so that critical corridors which have been adopted by localities for future greenways will not be severed by highway construction.

Inventories of existing and planned bicycle and pedestrian facilities for the planning area are presented on Sheets 4 and 5 of Figure 1. All recommendations for bicycle and pedestrian facilities were coordinated with the local governments and the NCDOT Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation. Refer to Appendix A for contact information.